in 1959 to create ideal jails are not being followed by all the States except Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake a fresh survey of various jails in the country with a view to study on the spot the problems of prisoners and to entertain their complaints, if any; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish the English version of jail book entitled "Rights of Prisoners" in various regional languages for being given to needy prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) 'Prison' is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take care of prisoners lodged in their jails and their demands.

National Highways and the Accidents

3202. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the number of fatal accidents on the National Highways has been increasing from year to year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make these Highways safe for travel;

(c) what is the number of cities/towns with a population of two lakhs and more, which are serviced by national highways;

(d) the number of such cities/towns provided with by-passes; and

(e) by when will the remaining cities/towns be provided with by-passes?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Roads Accidents take place due to multiple reasons including human factors, fitness of vehicles etc. Engineering improvements are being continuously made on the National Highways to make them safer. A number of enforcement measures provided in the new Motor Vehicles Act will also greatly help in reducing the road accidents.

(c) to (e) Information regarding number of cities/towns with population of two lakhs and more serviced by National Highways is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha along with the position of by-passes around them.

Rajasthani speaking people

3203. SHRI GAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rajasthani-speaking people in each census, under the head of "mother tongue";

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in that number from 1961 onwards; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that response from the people are solicited to enable them to record their option of mother-tongue freely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Four censuses were conducted in the country after Independence, in 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981. The number of Rajasthani speaking people in the country has not been given under the heading "mother tongue" in the 1951 census report. This report, however, gives the total number of speakers of Rajasthani in the country as 645,001 under Indian languages (or dialects) with speakers numbering a lakh and over. According to the 1961 census report the number of persons with Rajasthani as mother tongue is